



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and  
Energy Reliability

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

## *Electricity*

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### **55,000 Without Power in Co-Op City, New York**

Co-Op City, a complex housing 55,000 people in the Bronx that has its own utility company, lost power March 21 following an overnight power outage.

<http://www.wnbc.com/news/8158857/detail.html?rss=ny&psp=news>

### **Update: Power Restoration Completed to 65,000 Customers in Springfield, Illinois**

A week after a strong wind storm and tornadoes hit Springfield, Illinois, power has been restored to the 65,000 City Water, Light and Power customers that lost power. The task of reconnecting the affected customers was made difficult by the large number of power poles damaged by the storm.

[http://www.pjstar.com/stories/032106/REG\\_B9AA0QNK.050.shtml](http://www.pjstar.com/stories/032106/REG_B9AA0QNK.050.shtml)

### **Task Force Established by NRC to Investigate Tritium Leaks**

As a result of recent reports of unmonitored releases of water containing tritium during the last decade at some nuclear power plants, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced March 21 the establishment of a task force to investigate tritium leaks from US commercial nuclear power plants.

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/8339643.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

### **Georgia State Senate Passes Resolution Backing New Nuclear Plants in State; Georgia Power Seeks to Expand Vogtle Nuclear Plant**

By a vote of 43-6, the Georgia State Senate passed Resolution 865, which encourages utilities in the state to pursue adding nuclear capacity in the state and regulators to support such efforts. A similar measure is under consideration in the House.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6473997](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6473997)

### **Exelon's 1,017 MW Clinton Nuclear Plant in Illinois Shut March 20**

The 1,017 MW Clinton nuclear generating station of Exelon Corp. shut on March 20 when the main turbine tripped. The company is investigating the incident concentrating on a turbine low vacuum alarm. Exelon was unable to provide a timeframe for the restart of the unit.

Reuters, 07:41 March 21, 2006.

Bloomberg, 11:04 March 21, 2006.

### **Southern's 1,215 MW Unit 2 at its Vogtle Nuclear Plant in Georgia Shut March 20 to Repair Leaking Pipe**

Southern company again shut the 1,215 MW unit 2 at its Vogtle nuclear generating station in Georgia when a leak developed in a pipe in the reactor building. Leaks have been discovered in the same five foot section of pipe twice before. In an effort to determine the root cause of the reoccurring leaks, Southern will have a team of experts examine the problem. The company was unable to provide a timeframe for the restart of the unit.

Bloomberg, 10:14 March 21, 2006.

### **AES' 336 MW Gas-fired Unit 4 at its Alamitos Plant in California Shut March 21**

Reuters, 09:10 March 21, 2006.

### **CDWR's 318 Hyatt Hydro Plant in California Shut March 21**

Reuters, 09:10 March 21, 2006.

### **IPA's 520 MW Coal-fired Intermountain Plant in Utah Shut March 18**

Reuters, 14:51 March 21, 2006.

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Office of Pipeline Safety Intervenes: Orders BP to Fix Alaska Pipeline and to Work to Prevent Future Problems**

The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) of the Department of Transportation has ordered BP to take steps to prevent future leaks from the broken pipeline. The action is seen as unusual because BP has maintained the line in part of a gathering system and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of the OPS.

[http://www.sitnews.us/0306news/032006/032006\\_shns\\_pipeline.html](http://www.sitnews.us/0306news/032006/032006_shns_pipeline.html)

### **Oil Spill on North Slope Raises Concerns on Maintenance of Aging Pipeline Network**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/20/national/20spill.html>

### **Update: Production at 130,000 b/d Troll Platform C Returns to Normal**

According to Norsk Hydro, operations at the 130,000 b/d Troll C Platform in the North Sea have returned to normal. The platform was shut on March 16 for repairs.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6471069](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6471069)

### **Update: Shell Canada Restores Production at Athabasca Oil Sands Project**

Shell Canada announced that production at its Athabasca oil sands project in Alberta, Canada, had been fully restored. The unit had been operating at about one-third of capacity while repairs to a conveyor belt were underway. The repairs and replacement belt will enable the unit to again achieve a production rate of 155,000 b/d of bitumen.

Reuters, 18:08 March 20, 2006.

### **Fire at PDVSA's Amuay Refinery in Venezuela – Production Unaffected**

A fire in a hydrogen compressor at the Amuay refinery of Petroleos de Venezuela early on March 21 has been extinguished and, according to the company, will not affect shipments.

Reuters, 09:21 March 21, 2006.

Bloomberg, 09:58 March 21, 2006.

### **Valero Stockpiling Equipment to Facilitate Quick Restart if Hurricanes Strike**

Building on lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season, Valero has begun taking steps to facilitate quick restart of any of its 18 refineries that may be damaged by hurricanes this coming season. The company has installed pumps in or moved equipment from low-lying areas, stockpiled generators and pumps as well as trailers to accommodate workers.

Bloomberg, 13:27 March 21, 2006.

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Deal Signed to Develop LNG Terminal in Nova Scotia**

Maple LNG announced on March 20 that it had signed a deal with Keltic Petrochemicals to develop a proposed LNG facility near Halifax. In addition to the terminal, Keltic will construct a petrochemical plant; both projects are projected to take approximately three years to complete and are expected to be in service sometime in 2009.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6473032](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6473032)

## Other News

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### Pentagon Promoting Coal to Liquids Technology

Fueled by concern over the possibility of reduced oil as the result of developments in the Middle East or damaged infrastructure from hurricanes or terrorist disruptions, the Pentagon is promoting coal to liquids technology. If successful, the military would be able to use one fuel for all of its airplanes and vehicles.

Source: <http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060319/NEWS01/603190405/-1/CINCI>  
[http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/DHS\\_Daily\\_Report\\_2006-03-21.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/DHS_Daily_Report_2006-03-21.pdf)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 21, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	60.41	63.10	55.95
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	6.83	7.17	7.24

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Latest EIA Data Shown 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Weekly Increase Ever in the Price of Gasoline

Reuters, 17:53 March 20, 2006

### ExxonMobil CEO Sees Adequate Ethanol Supply to Meet MTBE Phase-Out Needs

Reuters, 12:38 March 21, 2006.

### Incremental Refinery Growth in U.S. Keeping Pace with Demand -- ExxonMobil CEO

Reuters, 12:09 March 21, 2006.

### \$2 Billion Coal Gasification Project Envisioned to Tie Into Mackenzie Pipeline Project

<http://www.cbc.ca/cp/business/060320/b032066.html>

### Despite Dispute with World Bank, Chad Hopes to Triple Oil Output to 500,000 b/d by 2010

Reuters, 12:57 March 21, 2006.

## Links

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***This Week in Petroleum*** from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

**Weekly Petroleum Status Report** from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

**Natural Gas Weekly Update** from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

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